

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NIC-01

EA-11 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 DRC-01 /181 W

----- 049921

R 061030Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 303

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, CE

SUBJ: REACTION TO US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN

REF STATE 236013

1. AFTERNOON DAILY TIMES OF CEYLON 1 DEC CARRIED ITEM ON SECRETARY SCHLESINGER STATEMENT RE US NAVY VISITS TO INDIAN OCEAN. THIS WAS SMALL BUT PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE OF REUTERS STORY FROM WASHINGTON HEADLINED "US NAVY WILL VISIT INDIAN OCEAN MORE FREQUENTLY". THERE HAVE BEEN NO EDITORIALS OR STORIES IN ANY OTHER PWPERS ON SCHLESINGER COMMENTS, WHICH MAY MEAN GSL HAS DISCOURAGED COVERAGE.

2. STORY FOLLOWS NEWSPAPER REPGMTS OF DEBATE IN NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY (NSA) 28 NOV DURING WHICH UNP MEMBER ASKED WHETHER GSL WOULD REFUSE BUNKERING FACILITIES TO SUPER-POWERS TRAVERSING INDIAN OCEAN IN LIGHT OF GOVERNMENT'S INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE (IOPZ) PROPOSAL. ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT, PM REPLIED THAT BUNKERING FACILITIES WOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO SHIPS CARRYING ARMS AND AMMUNITION OR WARSHIPS GOING TO ASSISTANCE OF COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN WAR. IN ANOTHER PRESS REPORT, PM REPORTEDLY INDICATED SHIPS WOULD BE GIVEN BUNK-  
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ERING FACILITIES DURING TIME OF PEACE BUT DURING WAR THEY

HAD TO BE RESTRICTED.

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER PM'S STATEMENT REPRESENTS NEW RESTRICTIONS IN GSL SHIP VISIT POLICY OR MERELY WAS ATTEMPT BY PM TO TURN AWAY EMBARRASSING QUESTION. WE ARE INCLINED TO SECOND INTERPRETATION. TIMES OF CEYLON ITEM ON SCHLESINGER STATEMENT WAS OVERSHADOWED BY NEIGHBORING LEAD STORY RELATING INCREASED DEMANDS FOR BUNKERING IN COLOMBO. THRUST OF BUNKERING ARTICLE WAS THAT NEW DEMANDS WILL PROVIDE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES TO SRI LANKA FOLLOWING SEVERAL YEARS OF DECLINE IN ITS BUNKERING TRADE. HOWEVER, THIS ITEM ALSO QUOTED PETROLEUM CORP. OFFICIAL TO EFFECT CORPORATION WILL NOT SERVICE WARSHIPS THAT ARE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN ANY WAR ZONE.  
BYRNE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION PM  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 236013  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <23-Jan-2002 by garlanwa>  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION TO US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, CE, XO, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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